



# Old Town News

The newsletter of Old Allentown Preservation Association

APR/JUN 2009

*The mission of Old Allentown Preservation Association is to preserve and foster pride in our neighborhood through communication, education and social interaction. Our goal is to promote urban living, diversity and Allentown's architectural legacy and heritage.*

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**Outreach Coordinator** Carmen DeAngelo

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Design – Deborah Rabinsky  
Neighbors & Economy – Geoffrey Brace  
Organization – Matthew Tuerk  
Promotions – Sharon Smith  
Safe, Green & Clean – Christian Brown

*Old Town News* is published quarterly. The deadline for submissions for the next edition is July 10. *Old Town News* reserves the right to edit submissions. Please send materials to: oldallentown@enter.net. Articles may be reprinted.

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Old Allentown Preservation Association  
147 North Tenth Street, Allentown, PA 18102  
tel. 610.740.9919 fax. 610.740.0651  
oldallentown@enter.net  
www.oldallentown.org  
www.oldallentown.blogspot.com

An elm street COMMUNITY

## *Elm St. Impact on Old Allentown Historic District*

AS OUR STATE LEADERS STRUGGLE to put together a state budget fraught with funding shortages, **programs impacting our neighborhood are subject to zero funding** in the 2009-2010 Pennsylvania budget. An Action Alert received from the Housing Alliance May 21 says it all...

“Among the proposed cuts in the Senate budget —

COMPLETELY ELIMINATING the New Communities appropriation, which funds the Main Street, Elm Street, and Enterprise Zones programs cutting \$1.1 million from HEMAP, which is already under funded.

Programs like Main Street, Elm Street and the Enterprise Zones programs, whose funding the Senate wants to redline, actually add to the local tax base by encouraging development, attracting residents and creating jobs.

Eliminating them will only cost tax payers more down the line by weakening local economies. House Democrats even credit these programs with helping to keep PA's unemployment rates reasonably in check in the midst of the national downturn.”

### *What the Elm St. Program has Meant to the Old Allentown Historic District*

Approximately five years ago, a group of Old Allentown Historic District residents guided by City of Allentown Bureau of Planning and Zoning staff developed five-year goals and objectives per the Elm St. program paradigm. Fast forward to five years later, Old Allentown Preservation Association, designated an Elm St. community in 2005, has greatly benefited as one of the first Elm St. communities in the state and has accomplished much. Following is what Elm St. has meant to your neighborhood in terms of additional funding and programs:

- **Promotions and Marketing Grant (\$10,000)** to promote the Elm St. program and encourage volunteers to get involved by way of joining one or more Elm St. committees: Safe, Clean & Green, Design, Neighbors & Economy, Organization, and Promotions. Check out [www.oldallentown.org](http://www.oldallentown.org) for our current committee meetings schedule.
- **Design Grant (\$25,000)** helped fund the Old Allentown Cemetery and Streetscape plans. Join us for a Streetscape Public Meeting introducing

*Now celebrating our 33rd year!*

the plan to you for your comments and suggestions on Thursday, June 11th @ St Michael's Lutheran Church, 9th & Turner St., 7PM.

- **Elm St. Demonstration Grant (\$325,000)** in partnership with Neighborhood Housing Services of the Lehigh Valley, NHS implemented a rehab program addressing code violations and energy saving improvements, and down payment assistance. Nine homes were rehabilitated and two homes were purchased with down-payment assistance.
- **Sidewalk Accessories Grants (\$15,000)** funded the purchase of new banners and tree well surrounds. The banners have been installed and the tree wells surrounds are slated for installation this summer.
- **Elm St. Residential Reinvestment Grant (\$250,000)** provided funding to partially rehab 343 N. 8th St., funded additional façade restorations, purchased two vacant lots on the 900 block of Turner St. to be developed as a neighborhood park, planted trees throughout the neighborhood and provided funding for three more Demonstration Grant rehab projects.
- **Elm St. program support (\$250,000)** to administer Old Allentown's Elm St. program and leverage more resources for the Old Allentown Historic District based on the strength and structure of an effective Elm St. community program.

**Act Now! Voice your concern** regarding the possible elimination of Elm St. and Main St. programs. **Contact** your local representatives: Representative Jennifer Mann at [jlmann@pahouse.net](mailto:jlmann@pahouse.net) and Senator Pat Browne at [pbrowne@pasen.gov](mailto:pbrowne@pasen.gov).

### *Special Recognition...*

RECENTLY, THE ALLENTOWN PRESERVATION LEAGUE held their annual Allentown Preservation Awards Ceremony and at the ceremony Old Allentown Preservation Association took the opportunity to recognize some very special people working on behalf of the Old Allentown Historic District.

JIM VILLUAME received OAPA's first "Spirit of Old Allentown" award for his countless volunteer hours and devotion to the Old Allentown Historic District overall.

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## OAPA UPCOMING EVENTS

### **National Neighborhood Week Street Festival**

Saturday, June 20, 2009, 10am–4pm  
200 block of North 11th Street, between Turner & Chew. Contact Sharon to reserve your space 610.821.9638

### **OAPA Progressive Dinner**

Saturday, August 8, 2009, 6–10pm  
Locations (3) TBD; Members free + covered dish. non-members \$10 plus a covered dish.

### **33rd Annual House Tour**

Saturday, October 3, 2009, 10:00am  
*Fall in love with Historic Allentown!* Explore inside the wonderful homes of the Old Allentown and Fairgrounds districts. Pennrose Properties has again generously donated two trolleys to make your exploration a breeze!

## A NOTE OF THANKS TO JIM VILLUAME

A dedicated neighbor and friend that helped to shape our community. Jim Villuame, a 20-year resident and community leader, has been an integral member and officer of the Old Allentown Preservation Association.

The Board, residents and City of Allentown officials all appreciate the incredible amount of time and expertise Jim gave/gives to his neighborhood, whether serving on OAPA's board, or working on committees and programs benefiting the neighborhood and ultimately the City of Allentown. Jim, we cannot THANK YOU enough!

Jim resigned his position as President of the Board on February, 2009.

*Check out Old Allentown on Facebook! Become OAPA's friend!*

DEBORAH RABINSKY received the “Preservationist Award” for her contributions to OAPA’s façade restoration program. Deborah works with property/homeowners to select paint colors appropriate for homes within the Old Allentown Historic District. Her efforts have made our neighborhood a more beautiful place.

EDWARD MORRISON received the “Renovation Project Award” for his hours of hard work on his home’s façade restoration. Edward’s home was one of OAPA’s 2008 façade restoration projects. While a façade grant covered much of the restoration, Edward spent many evenings and weekends repointing the brick on the front of his home.



### Great Work, Edward!

Edward Morrison's home shown before (left) and after (right).

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## Join/Renew Now!

**Old Allentown Preservation Association Application Jan. 1, 2009 – Dec. 31, 2009**

*Please print or type:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Business/Corporation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(used to distribute the newsletter and to update Members on OAPA events – confidential)

Please indicate membership status (check one): ☐ Renewing Member ☐ New Member (welcome!)

Please indicate your level of membership (check one): ☐ Individual \$25/yr ☐ Family/Household \$40/yr  
☐ Student/Sr. Citizen \$15/yr ☐ Business \$80/yr

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Old Allentown Preservation Association, Inc.  
Mail check with completed application to:  
OAPA, 147 North Tenth Street, Allentown, PA 18102

The success and strength of OAPA has always been the individuals who make up the membership and those who support our efforts. If you are interested in getting involved or wish to know more about the organization, please indicate below:

☐ Contact me about an Elm Street Committee ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Meet OAPA's New Outreach Coordinator



CARMEN DEANGELO, Turner St. resident, joined Old Allentown Preservation Association as our Outreach Coordinator mid-April. Carmen, who is fluent in Spanish, will focus on connecting with a diverse Old Allentown Latino community. Additional responsibilities include volunteer development, neighborhood and housing services material development, historic preservation resource development and administrative support.

Carmen brings a wealth of skills and interests to our organization. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies from Florida International University (1999), Associate degrees in child development/education (1994) and recently acquired a real estate license (2007). Her hobbies include photography, gardening, and traveling.



### The Great Clean-up!

*left: Safe, Clean & Green participated in the state-wide clean-up day.*

*right: SC&G moved and replanted five planters within our neighborhood! Thank you volunteers!*

## CITY CONTACTS

**Zoning** – 610.437.7649

**Code Enforcement** – 610.437.7690

**Noise – Allentown Police**  
610.437.7751

**Old Town Neighborhood Watch**  
610.821.9638

**HARB** – 610.437.7613

**Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS)**  
610.437.4571

**Recycling/Trash/SWEEP/Graffiti/  
High Grass & Weeds**  
610.437.8729

**Shopping Cart Pick-up**  
800.244.2278